

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lida Nobakht et al.
Assignee: ViaClix, Inc.
Title: USER TERMINAL FOR CHANNEL-BASED INTERNET NETWORK
Serial No. 10/821,000 File Date: 04/07/2004
Examiner: J. Hu Art Unit: 2154
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San Jose, CA
October 29, 2007

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

This Supplemental Appeal Brief, filed in triplicate, is in response to the Notice dated Sept. 28, 2007, and in furtherance of the Appeal Brief filed July 9, 2007, which was filed in support of the Notice of Appeal dated December 13, 2006.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the assignee, VIACLIX, Inc., pursuant to the Assignment recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 12, 2000 on Reel 010856, Frame 0920, and the CHANGE OF NAME IN RECORDED ASSIGNMENTS recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 20, 2001 on Reel 011920, frame 0303.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Based on information and belief, there are no other appeals or interferences that could directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1-34 are appealed.

Claims 1-34 are listed in the Claims Appendix.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Appellant filed a response to the Non-Final Office Action on March 28, 2006. The amendments entered in that response were entered by the Examiner, as indicated by the Examiner in the Final Office Action dated June 13, 2006.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

This appeal involves independent Claims 1, 21, 26, 29 and 32 and the subject matter of this claim finds exemplary support in the specification and drawings as follows:

Claim 1 involves the following subject matter: a user terminal for a channel-based network (Paragraph 0021, channel network 100 and user terminals 130-A to 130-D; Figs. 1 and 4). The channel-based network includes a system server, at least one user terminal, and at least one Internet site. The system server stores a master channel table that is downloaded, at least in part, to the user terminals in a scheduled manner. The master channel table includes a list of Internet site names, associated channel numbers, and Internet addresses. Each user terminal includes a memory circuit (e.g., a flash or SDRAM memory) that is configured to store a local version of the channel table (Paragraph 0033, SDRAM 218, flash 219; Fig. 2). In a menu mode, channel numbers and associated Internet site names stored in the local channel table are displayed on, for example, a television or other display device (paragraph 0034; Fig. 3A). The user terminal is provided with an input device (e.g., a device similar to a television remote control) that allows the user to select an Internet site from the displayed menu by entering the channel number displayed next to the selected Internet site name using, for example, a numeric keypad (paragraph 0027, remote 202, keyboard 203 (Fig. 2); paragraphs 0073-0074 (Fig. 9, block 942). When a channel number is entered, the Internet address (e.g., URL) associated with the entered channel number is read from the local channel table, and the user terminal is connected with the selected Internet site by transmitting the Internet address onto the Internet (Paragraphs 0029 and 0073: CPU 210, system controller 211, MCU 212, communication port 217; block 948; Figs. 2, 4, 9). By allowing a user to access internet sites using channel numbers, the user terminal of the present invention

provides a key advantage over conventional networks that access internet sites using pull-down displays. That is, when a large number of Internet sites are stored in such pull-down displays, a user must perform the tedious task of locating and highlighting a corresponding site name or icon before accessing the selected Internet site. In contrast, similar to locating a favorite television station, the present invention allows a user to enter a memorized channel number, thereby immediately accessing the selected Internet site without manipulating pull-down displays. Further, by storing and accessing the Internet sites using a channel table, the manufacturing costs associated with user terminals are significantly less than conventional personal computers.

Claim 21 involves the following subject matter: a user terminal for a channel-based network (Paragraph 0021, channel network 100 and user terminals 130-A to 130-D; Figs. 1 and 4). Each user terminal includes a memory circuit that is configured to store a channel table, the channel table including a plurality of channel numbers and a plurality of Internet Addresses, each said channel number having an associated said Internet address and an associated Internet site name (Paragraph 0034: 219A, 219B (Fig. 3A), a non-volatile memory (e.g., a flash memory) for storing a semi-permanent version of the channel table, and a volatile memory for storing a temporary version of the channel table (paragraph 0034: flash 219 (Figs. 2 and 4)), a volatile memory circuit (paragraph 0034: flash 218 (Figs. 2 and 4)), an input device (Paragraph 0027, input device 133, 202, 203 (Figs. 2 and 4)), and a control unit (Paragraph 0029: CPU 210, system controller 211, MCU 212, IR receiver 213; (Figs. 2 and 4)). At the beginning of each user session, a control unit of the user terminal interacts with the network server to authorize the user session (e.g., by comparing information transmitted from a smart card with information stored at the server), and then copies the

semi-permanent channel table from the non-volatile memory into the volatile memory if the user session is authorized (Paragraph 0029: CPU 210, block 860 (Figs. 2, 4, 8(A))). By providing a semi-permanent channel table in the non-volatile memory, irritating delays caused by downloading channel table data from the server are minimized. Further, because the control unit only operates using the temporary channel table stored in the volatile memory, which is erased at the beginning of each user session, unintended access of, for example, a minor user to adult Internet sites, is avoided. In other words, each user terminal is provided with an innate security system because the control unit must copy the semi-permanent channel table from the non-volatile memory into the volatile memory before the user terminal can be used to access Internet sites. When a channel number is entered, the Internet address (e.g., URL) associated with the entered channel number is read from the local channel table, and the user terminal is connected with the selected Internet site by transmitting the Internet address onto the Internet (Paragraphs 0029 and 0073: CPU 210, system controller 211, MCU 212, communication port 217; block 948; Figs. 2, 4, 9).

Claim 26 involves the following subject matter: a user terminal for a channel-based network that is connected to the Internet (Paragraph 0021, channel network 100 and user terminals 130-A to 130-D; Figs. 1 and 4). The channel-based network includes a system server, at least one user terminal, and at least one Internet site having an Internet address (Paragraph 0021, channel network 100 and user terminals 130-A to 130-D; Figs. 1 and 4). Each user terminal downloads the master channel table from the network server over the Internet, thereby providing a local copy of the master channel table that can be accessed during a user session (Paragraph 0025, CPU 210, system controller 211; MCU 212, comm port/socket 217/216; memory 218,219; smart card/socket 232/215; asset manager flash 222;

Figs. 2, 3A, 3B, 3C, 8A and 8B, Fig. 9). As mentioned above, channel numbers and associated internet site names are then read from the local copy and displayed, for example, on a television, thereby allowing a user to access each Internet site simply by entering a selected channel number. By supporting channel table downloads from the server, updated channel table information is conveniently provided to each user terminal when the master channel table at the server is updated. Further, guest users are able to access personal channel table information at remote locations simply by identifying themselves to the server using, for example, a smart card.

Claim 29 involves the following subject matter: a method for operating a user terminal in a channel-based network that is connected to the Internet (Paragraph 0021, channel network 100 and user terminals 130-A to 130-D; Figs. 1 and 4). The user terminal including a non-volatile memory circuit and a volatile memory circuit, the non-volatile memory circuit being configured to store a user channel table, the user channel table including a plurality of channel numbers, associated Internet addresses and associated Internet site names (memory 218, 219, channel tables 219A, 219B; Figs. 3A and 4). The method involves detecting the presence of a user (paragraph 0062; Fig. 7, block 705), determining whether the user is a resident user or a guest user (paragraph 0063; Fig. 7, blocks 725, 750), downloading the user channel table into the non-volatile memory from a system server via the Internet (paragraph 0070; Fig. 8: block 835), and copying a user channel table from the non-volatile memory to the volatile memory only when the user is determined to be a resident user (paragraph 0070; Fig. 8: block 845).

VI. GROUNDS FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The following rejections are presented to the Board of Appeals for decision:

1. Claims 1,3-4,6-11, 17, 21 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6381748 (herein "Lin").

2. Claims 2, 12-16, 18-20, 22-25, 27-34 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin.

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of USP 6397387 (Rosin).

VII. ARGUMENTS

1. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11, 17, 21 and 26 are distinguished over Lin

Lin discloses an apparatus and methods for network access using a set top box 112 in which communications between the set top box and an Internet site are passed through a server (headend) 110. In this, all information from an Internet site transmitted to box 112 passes through headend server 110:

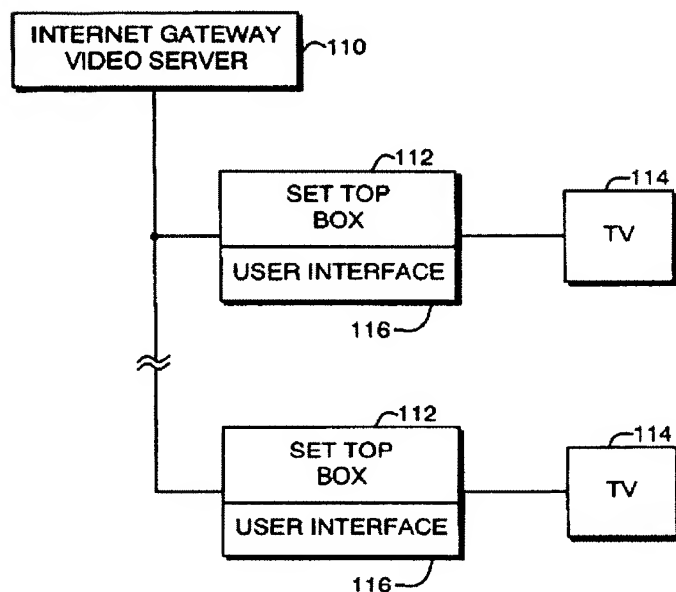


FIG. 1

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FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a preferred embodiment of the invention. Televisions 114 are connected to set top boxes 112 which send video signals to television 114. Set top boxes 112 are also connected to Internet gateway video server 110 via a television distribution system, and receive frames from Internet gateway video server 110 for display on television 114. Each set top box 112 is individually addressable, and sends information to server 110 which identifies the particular source set top box 112.

In a preferred embodiment, server 110 is located at source end of a television signal, such as a cable system. For example, server 110 may be located at the headend of a television distribution system. Alternatively, server 110 may be located at some other location on the television distribution line. For example, server 110 may be located in an apartment building or hotel between an incoming television distribution line and set top boxes 112. In this manner, "local" Internet access is provided. Moreover, server 110 may perform functions in addition to providing Internet access. For example, server 110 may be dedicated to providing Internet access to set top boxes 112. Alternatively, server 110 may also receive a regular television distribution signal for transmission to set top boxes 112, and provide Internet-related signals or other programming, depending upon the channel selection by the user.

A problem with the system taught by Lin is that when a large number of access requests are transmitted at the same time (i.e., by a large number of set top boxes), then server 110 can become overwhelmed, causing a transmission bottleneck that degrades service to set top boxes 112.

In addition, Lin teaches that the server 110, not the set top box 112, generates and/or stores the Internet addresses that are used to access a site requested by a user through the set top box 112 (see Fig. 2 and column 4, lines 5-31, copied below for reference):

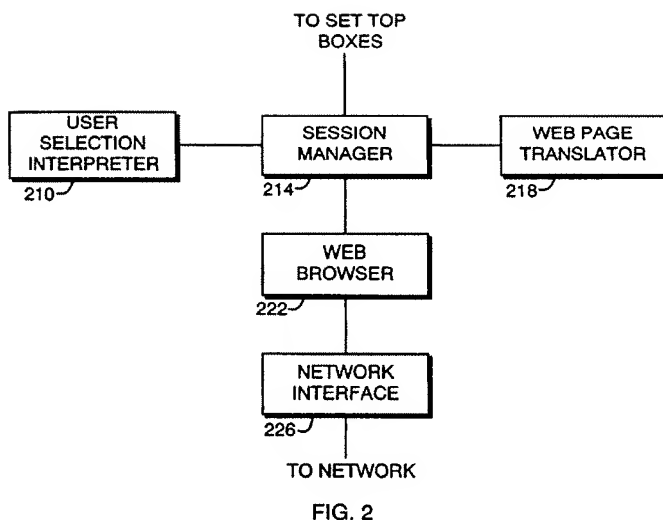


FIG. 2

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5 FIG. 2 shows the general architecture of the server 110 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. Session manager 214 manages the overall information flow within server 110. This includes reception of user selection signals from the set top boxes 112, translations of user request signals, requests for Web pages, translation of Web
10 pages, and transmission of television information to set top boxes 112. In general, session manager 214 keeps track of requests from the user, requests to the web browser, menu presentation, and web page presentation. Session manager 214 receives information from the cable and transmits information to the cable.
15 In response to user selection signals, session manager 214 either responds directly to the user selection signals or requests translation of the user selection signals by user selection interpreter 210. Interpreter 210 translates user selection signals into Web page addresses. The Web page addresses are sent to manager 214.
20 In response to the translation, session manager 214 requests Web browser 222 to retrieve a Web page from the network via network interface 226. Once the Web page has been received, it is sent to session manager 214, which requests translation of the Web page by web page translator 218. After translation, the results are transferred to manager 214. Manager 214 then passes at least part of the translated Web page to the set top box 112 associated with the user request.
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That the server generates/stores the the Internet addresses that are used to access a site requested by a user is further discussed in column 5, lines 57-65 (copied below for reference):

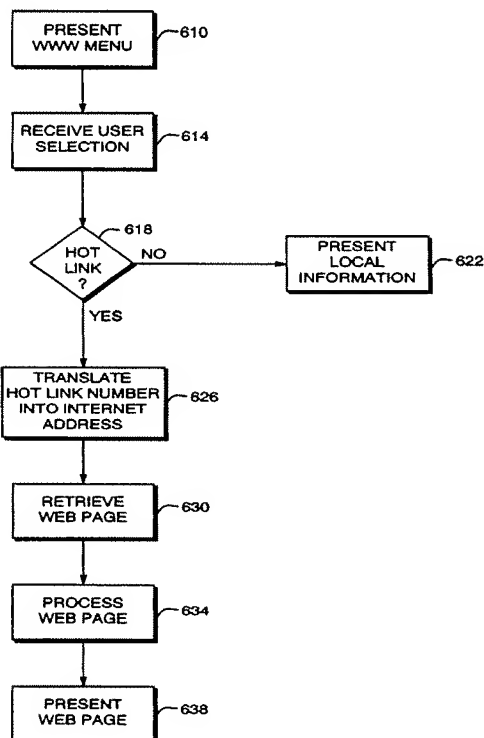


FIG. 6

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FIG. 6 is a flow chart showing the overall processing performed by server 110. The user is first presented with a menu (step 610). A user selection from the menu is then received (step 614). The user selection will either be a Web page request requiring Web access (step 618), or a selection which requires that information be generated locally by Internet gateway video server 110 and sent to the appropriate set top box 112 (step 622). Locally generated information may include, for example, menus and administrative information related to a user's service.
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55 If the user selects a WWW page, the user Web page selection is translated into an Internet address (step 626). Server 110 retrieves the Web page associated with the translated Internet address (step 630). The Web page is then processed to transform the Web-based format into signals suitable for display on television 114 (step 634). The processed Web page is then transmitted to television 114 via set top box 112 and displayed to the user (step 638).
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In contrast to Lin, the present invention is directed to a user terminal in a channel-based network that overcomes the bottleneck problems associated with the system of Lin by facilitating direct communication between each user terminal and associated Internet sites (i.e., not through a headend server). That is, as indicated below with reference to Applicants' Fig. 1, all communications between user terminals 130-A through 130-D and Internet sites 120-1 through 120-4 are transmitted over the Internet.

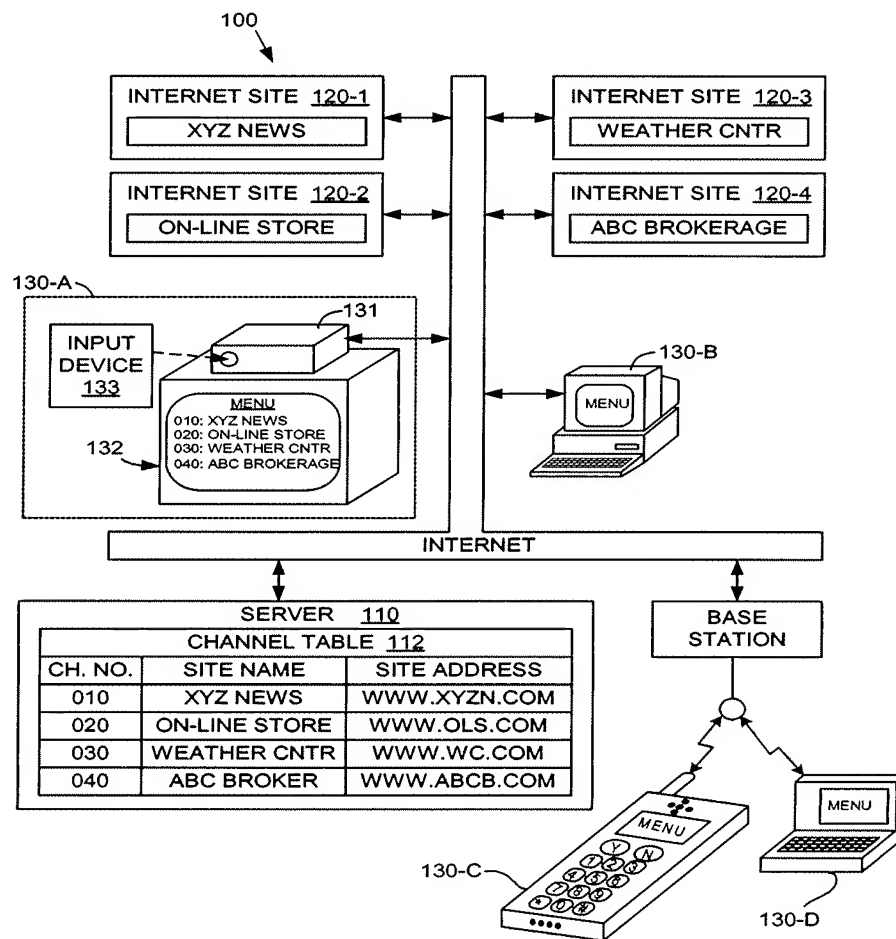


FIG. 1

Claim 1 is distinguished over Lin's set top box 12 in that Claim 1 recites (in pertinent part):

A user terminal of a channel-based network, the user terminal comprising:
...means for reading the Internet address associated with the selected channel

number from the memory circuit, and for connecting the user terminal to a selected Internet site that is addressed by the Internet address associated with the selected channel number such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted only via the Internet.

The above-quoted language from Claim 1 is clearly distinguished over Lin because Lin fails to teach or suggest "means ... for connecting the user terminal to a selected Internet site that is addressed by the Internet address associated with the selected channel number such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted only via the Internet", as recited in Claim 1. That is, Lin teaches utilizing a headend server, which generates the "bottleneck" problem described above, and Lin fails to teach or suggest avoiding this bottleneck problem by providing user terminals that connect "to a selected Internet site ... such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted only via the Internet", as recited in Claim 1.

Further, Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the "user terminal" includes "a memory circuit that is configured to store a channel table, the channel table including a plurality of channel numbers and a plurality of Internet Addresses, each said channel number having an associated said Internet address and an associated Internet site name". As such Claim 1 is further distinguished over Lin because, as set forth above, Lin fails to teach or suggest a "a memory circuit that is configured to store...a plurality of Internet Addresses" as recited in Claim 1.

Claims 3-4, 6-11, and 17 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore distinguished over the cited prior art for

at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

Similar to Claim 1, Claim 21 recites (in pertinent part):

...means ... for transmitting the associated Internet address via the communication circuitry directly onto the Internet, thereby connecting the user terminal to a selected Internet site that is addressed by the associated Internet address such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted directly over the Internet.

In addition, similar to Claim 1, Claim 21 is amended to clarify that the "user terminal" includes "a memory circuit that is configured to store a channel table, the channel table including a plurality of channel numbers and a plurality of Internet Addresses, each said channel number having an associated said Internet address and an associated Internet site name."

In view of this amendment and originally recited language, Claim 21 is believed to be distinguished over Lin for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

Similar to Claims 1 and 21, Claim 26 recites (in pertinent part):

...means for transmitting the Internet address from the downloaded channel table directly onto the Internet when the first channel number is entered by the user, thereby connecting the user terminal to the Internet site such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted directly over the Internet.

As such, Claim 26 is believed to be distinguished over Lin for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

Claim 26 is further distinguished over Lin in that Claim 26 recites "means for downloading a channel table from the system server via the Internet". As pointed out above, headend server 110 of Lin's system is connected between the Internet and set top boxes 112, and therefore clearly does not transmit channel information to set top boxes 112 "via the Internet", as recited in Claim 26.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections under 35 USC 102.

2. Claims 2, 12-16, 18-20, 22-25 and 27-34 are patentable over Lin

Claims 2, 12-16, 18 and 19 are dependent from independent Claim 1, Claims 22-25 are dependent from independent Claim 21, and Claims 27 and 28 are dependent from independent Claim 26. Independent Claims 1, 21, and 26 are believed to be patentable over Lin at least because it would not have been obvious to modify the system taught by Lin to meet the limitations of these amended claims (i.e., Lin neither teaches nor suggests transmitting information from an Internet site directly to set top boxes 112 such that the information does not pass through server 110, and Lin fails to teach or suggest storage of Internet addresses in the set top boxes). Therefore, dependent Claims 18, 19, 22-25, 27 and 28 are distinguished over Lin for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claims 1, 21, and 26.

Claim 29 recites that the channel table is downloaded from a "system server via the Internet", which is neither

taught nor suggested by Lin. Further, Claim 29 clearly recites that user terminal is "configured to store a user channel table, the user channel table including a plurality of channel numbers, associated Internet addresses and associated Internet site names". Therefore, Claim 29 is believed to be distinguished over Lin for reasons similar to those provided above.

Claims 30 and 31 are dependent from independent Claim 29, and are therefore distinguished over Lin for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 29.

Similar to Claim 29, Claim 32 recites a "user terminal including a non-volatile memory circuit storing a user channel table, wherein each of the master channel table and the user channel table include a plurality of channel numbers, associated Internet addresses" and "downloading the master channel table from the system server via the Internet", and is therefore believed to be distinguished over Lin for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 29.

Claims 33 and 34 are dependent from independent Claim 32, and are therefore distinguished over Lin for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 32.

3. Claims 5 is patentable over Lin in view of Rosin

Claims 5 is dependent from Claim 1, and is believed to be distinguished of Lin for at least the reasons set forth with respect to Claim 1. Rosin is cited for teaching "an associated parental guidance code", and fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lin discussed above. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Lin and Rosin to produce the method recited in Applicants' Claim 5.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1-34 are erroneous, and reversal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Bever", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick T. Bever
Attorney for Appellant
Reg. No. 33,834
(408) 451-5902

Customer no. 22888

VII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (previously presented) A user terminal of a channel-based network, the user terminal comprising:
 - a memory circuit that is configured to store a channel table, the channel table including a plurality of channel numbers and a plurality of Internet Addresses, each said channel number having an associated said Internet address and an associated Internet site name;
 - an input device for entering a selected channel number; and
 - means for reading the Internet address associated with the selected channel number from the memory circuit, and for connecting the user terminal to a selected Internet site that is addressed by the Internet address associated with the selected channel number such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted only via the Internet.
2. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the memory circuit comprises a synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM).
3. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the memory circuit comprises a flash memory.
4. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 3, wherein the flash memory includes a first section for storing a first channel table and a second section for storing a second channel table.

5. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 3, wherein each Internet address stored in the channel table includes an associated parental guidance code, and wherein processor includes means for preventing the transmission of Internet addresses that are associated with parental guidance codes having a predetermined value.

6. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 3, wherein each Internet site name stored in the channel table includes an associated favorite site code, and wherein processor includes means for listing on a display apparatus a group of Internet site names that are associated with favorite site codes having a predetermined value.

7. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, further comprising a display apparatus for displaying the plurality of channel numbers and associated Internet site names that are stored in the memory circuit.

8. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 7, where the display apparatus comprises a television.

9. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein said means for reading comprises:

communication circuitry configured to transmit signals to and receive signals from the Internet;

a control unit for receiving the selected channel number from the input device; and

a processor configured to read the Internet address associated with the selected channel number from the memory circuit, and to transmit the associated Internet address via the communication circuitry onto the Internet.

10. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 9, wherein the control unit comprises a system controller and a micro-controller connected to the system controller via an interface port.

11. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 10, wherein the control unit further comprises an infra-red detector connected to the micro-controller, and wherein the input device comprises means for transmitting infra-red signals to the infra-red detector.

12. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 11, wherein the input device comprises a numeric keypad, one or more dedicated function keys and a joystick.

13. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 12, wherein the input device is implemented in a remote control unit.

14. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 12, wherein the input device includes a QWERTY keyboard.

15. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 8, further comprising a smart card socket and an interrupt switch connected between the system controller and the smart card socket.

16. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, further comprising an asset manager memory for storing a serial number of the user terminal, and for storing a version number of the channel table stored by the memory circuit.

17. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the user terminal comprises a set-top box connected to a television.

18. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the user terminal comprises a personal computer.

19. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the user terminal comprises a cellular telephone.

20. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the user terminal comprises a personal digital assistant.

21. (previously presented) A user terminal of a channel-based network that is connected to the Internet, the user terminal comprising:

- a memory circuit that is configured to store a channel table, the channel table including a plurality of channel numbers and a plurality of Internet Addresses, each said channel number having an associated said Internet address and an associated Internet site name;

- a non-volatile memory circuit for storing a first channel table, the first channel table including a plurality of channel numbers, a plurality of Internet Addresses and a plurality of Internet site names, each said channel number having an associated said Internet address and an associated said Internet site name;

- a volatile memory circuit;

- an input device;

- a control unit for receiving a selected channel number entered by a user through the input device; and

means for selectively copying the first channel table from the non-volatile memory circuit to the volatile memory circuit, for reading the Internet address associated with the selected channel number from the volatile memory circuit, and for transmitting the associated Internet address via the communication circuitry directly onto the Internet, thereby connecting the user terminal to a selected Internet site that is addressed by the associated Internet address such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted directly over the Internet.

22. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 21, wherein the non-volatile memory circuit is a flash memory, and wherein the volatile memory circuit is a synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM).

23. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 21, further comprising:

communication circuitry for downloading a second channel table from the Internet;

means for detecting one of a resident user and a guest user; and

means for storing the downloaded second channel table in the non-volatile memory circuit when the resident user is detected, and for storing the downloaded second channel table in the volatile memory when the guest user is detected,

wherein, when the resident user is detected, the means for selectively copying copies the second channel table into the volatile memory after it is stored in the non-volatile memory circuit.

24. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 23, wherein the means for detecting comprises a system controller, a smart card socket, and an interrupt switch connected between the smart card socket and the system controller.

25. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 24, further comprising means for erasing said volatile memory in response to an interrupt control signal transmitted from the interrupt switch.

26. (previously presented) A user terminal of a channel-based network that is connected to the Internet, the channel-based network including a system server and an Internet site having Internet address, the user terminal comprising:

means for downloading a channel table from the system server via the Internet, the channel table including a plurality of channel numbers, associated Internet addresses and associated Internet site names, wherein a first channel number is associated with the Internet address of the Internet site and an Internet name that is descriptive of the Internet site; and

means for transmitting the Internet address from the downloaded channel table directly onto the Internet when the first channel number is entered by the user, thereby connecting the user terminal to the Internet site such that communications between the user terminal and the selected Internet site are transmitted directly over the Internet.

27. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 26, further comprising means for transmitting user

information from a user's smart card and terminal information from an asset manager memory to the system server via the Internet, and for receiving an authorization code from the system server indicating that the user is authorized to operate the user terminal.

28. (original) The user terminal according to Claim 27, further comprising:

a non-volatile memory circuit;

a volatile memory circuit;

means detecting whether an authorized user is a resident user or a guest user; and

means for storing the downloaded channel table in the non-volatile memory circuit when the user is a resident user, and for storing the downloaded channel table in the volatile memory when the user is a guest user.

29. (original) A method for operating a user terminal in a channel-based network, the user terminal including a non-volatile memory circuit and a volatile memory circuit, the non-volatile memory circuit being configured to store a user channel table, the user channel table including a plurality of channel numbers, associated Internet addresses and associated Internet site names, wherein the method comprises:

detecting the presence of a user;

determining whether the user is a resident user or a guest user;

downloading the user channel table into the non-volatile memory from a system server via the Internet; and

copying a user channel table from the non-volatile memory to the volatile memory only when the user is determined to be a resident user.

30. (original) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the step of detecting comprises receiving an interrupt signal from an interrupt switch that is connected to a smart card socket indicating the connection of a smart card to the smart card socket.

31. (original) The method according to Claim 29, further comprising the step of erasing the volatile memory after the step of detecting and before the step of determining.

32. (original) A method for operating a user terminal in a channel-based network including a system server, the system server including a channel table database storing a master channel table, the user terminal including a non-volatile memory circuit storing a user channel table, wherein each of the master channel table and the user channel table include a plurality of channel numbers, associated Internet addresses and associated Internet site names, wherein the method comprises:

determining whether the master channel table is different from the user channel table;

downloading the master channel table from the system server when the master channel table is different from the user channel table;

storing the master channel table in the non-volatile memory such that the master channel table replaces the user channel table.

33. (original) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the step of determining comprises:

transmitting a version number associated with the user channel table to the system server; and

receiving an update available signal from the system server indicating that the user channel table is different from the master channel table.

34. (original) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the step of downloading comprises:

transmitting a request to the system server; and

storing the master channel table transmitted from the system server in a volatile memory.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Not used.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Not used.